

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Micah Swafford
202-225-2132

Istook Votes for Tax Limitation Amendment

Washington, D.C. -- Today, Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) voted with the majority of the U.S. House of Representatives, 199-229, for a constitutional amendment requiring a two-thirds supermajority of both houses of Congress in order to pass a proposed tax increase.

"This amendment would make it more difficult for Uncle Sam to reach into the pockets of hard-working taxpayers," said Istook. **"The typical American family already spends about 40% of its income on taxes, more than clothes, food, and shelter combined. We need to give more protection to American citizens from tax-and-spend politicians."**

Because the measure is an amendment to the United States Constitution it requires a two-thirds vote of each House for passage. Under the amendment, Congress would have the flexibility to waive the two-thirds requirement during times of military conflict, but tax increases approved under a waiver could only be in effect for a maximum of 2 years.

The state of Oklahoma passed a similar resolution in 1992 requiring a three-fourths vote for all tax increases.